GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6203
ANSWERED ON:11.04.2017
Import of APIs
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that India imports around 60% of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) from China for manufacturing of drugs in the country;

(b) whether the Government has any plan to produce APIs in the country in order to reduce our dependence on Chinese imports of APIs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS; MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a): The country is dependent for imports of bulk drugs/Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) on China for producing certain essential medicines. As India is a signatory to the WTO and TRIPs agreement, the import restrictions have been removed and imports made on economic considerations have slowly resulted in the present dependence.

(b) & (c): It may be mentioned that most of the imports of the Bulk Drug/APIs being done in the country are because of economic considerations. India is also at present a manufacturer and exporter of several APIs/Bulk Drugs. However, Government is still taking various policy initiatives in order to discourage imports. Recently, the government has withdrawn exemption of customs duty on certain categories of Bulk Drugs/APIs to provide a level playing field to the domestic manufacturers. Further, the government is clearing bottlenecks like environment clearance etc. which the manufacturers are facing, in order to give a boost to domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs.
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